

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1-3 as follows.

Please **ADD** claim 4 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1. (currently amended) A method for processing one or a plurality of absolute cell references or cell range references during a copy/cut and paste operation in a multi dimensional spreadsheet (~~170~~) comprising a plurality of cells identified by addresses or names, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a source cell range to cut and paste or to copy and paste into a destination cell range;

storing (~~403~~) in a working buffer the content of each cell that belongs to said source cell range;

clearing the content of each cell that belongs to a source cell range to cut;

for each cell stored in the working buffer:

if the content of the stored cell comprises one or a plurality of absolute references pointing to a cell or a cell range belonging to the source cell range (~~405, 406~~):

determining for each of said cells or cell ranges pointed by an absolute reference and belonging to the source cell range, a relative position within the source cell range;

determining for each of said relative position within the source cell range, a corresponding absolute reference within the destination cell range;

replacing (~~407~~) within the stored cell, each absolute reference pointing to a cell or a cell range belonging to the source cell range by the corresponding absolute reference within the destination cell range;

copying (~~408~~) the content of each cell stored in the buffer to corresponding cells within the destination cell range.

2. (currently amended) A system ~~comprising means~~ adapted for carrying out the method ~~according to the preceding claim 1~~ for processing one or a plurality of absolute cell references or cell range references during a copy/cut and paste operation in a multi dimensional spreadsheet comprising a plurality of cells identified by addresses or names, comprising:

means for selecting a source cell range to cut and paste or to copy and paste into a destination cell range;

means for storing in a working buffer the content of each cell that belongs to said source cell range;

means for clearing the content of each cell that belongs to a source cell range to cut;
for each cell stored in the working buffer, if the content of the stored cell comprises one or a plurality of absolute references pointing to a cell or a cell range belonging to the source cell range;

means for determining for each of said cells or cell ranges pointed by an absolute reference and belonging to the source cell range, a relative position within the source cell range;

means for determining for each of said relative position within the source cell range, a corresponding absolute reference within the destination cell range; and

means for replacing within the stored cell, each absolute reference pointing to a cell or a cell range belonging to the source cell range by the corresponding absolute reference within the destination cell range; and

means for copying the content of each cell stored in the buffer to corresponding cells within the destination cell range.

3. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions ~~adapted for carrying out~~ which when executed, perform the method according to claim 1.

4. (new) A method for processing one or a plurality of absolute cell references or cell range references during a copy/cut and paste operation in a multi dimensional spreadsheet comprising a plurality of cells identified by addresses or names, said method comprising the steps of:

- copying a first cell found in a memory clipboard within a working buffer in memory;

- parsing content of the memory working buffer;

- performing a test to detect, while parsing, if any absolute reference is found within the content of the memory working buffer;

- if any absolute reference is found, then:

- performing a test on the absolute reference found to determine if the absolute reference points to a cell which is part of a cell range which has been cut or copied to the memory clipboard;

- if yes, updating the content of the memory working buffer to change the absolute reference identified so that it points within a pasted range to a cell whose relative position within the pasted range matches the relative position of the original absolute reference within the source cell range;

- copying the content of the memory working buffer within the pasted cell range at the cell location matching the relative position of the last cell copied from the clipboard to the memory working buffer when an entire content of the memory working buffer has been parsed and all potential absolute references pointing within the source cell range have been updated.